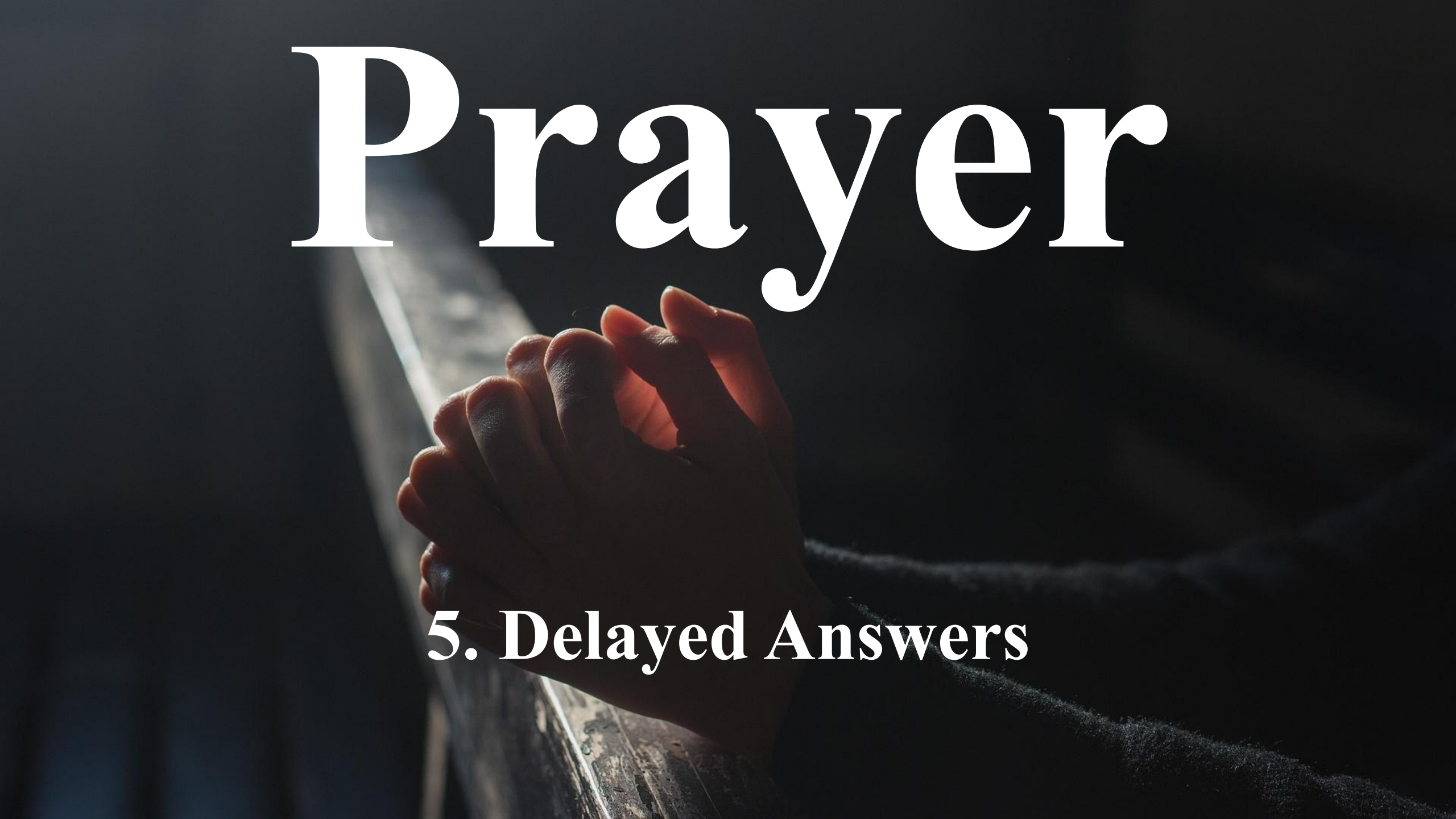


# Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands and the text above them, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the background. The background is dark and textured, possibly showing the folds of a garment or a wooden surface. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

## 5. Delayed Answers

**Luke 18:7 "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"**

**Meaning:** God's timing is always perfect. He not only knows what we need, but when we need it. There were many good Bible examples, such as Abraham, Job, Daniel, Isaac, and Moses, whose answer to prayer was delayed for days, months, and sometimes years. God's delay to answer is not always due to sin in our lives. God sees the beginning and the end, and knows when it is best to have our desired petition fulfilled.

**Application:** Hannah waited for a child; Job waited for healing; and Jeremiah waited for direction. We must realize that our request may be right, but the timing may be wrong. In the process of waiting, we learn to rest and trust in the Lord. No matter how long it takes to get our desired answer, we can be certain that whatever He does, it is for our benefit and blessing. Delayed answers will never come only if we stop asking.

**Other Verses for Study:** Genesis 25:20-26; Job 23:8-10; Psalm 40:1; Jeremiah 42:2-7; Daniel 10:11-13; Luke 18:7, 8; John 11:1-15; II Corinthians 12:7-9; Ephesians 3:20

1. Our prayer request may be \_\_\_\_\_, but the timing may be \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What do we learn while waiting for God to answer our prayers?

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3. Unanswered prayers will remain unanswered if we stop what?

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**"God's answers are not always immediate, His delays are not always denials."**